

Antibiotic News

AND REPORT
ON
INFECTIOUS
DISEASES

880 Third Avenue, New York, N.Y. 10022 | 421-7320 |

August 16, 1966

Dr. Joshua Lederberg
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Dear Dr. Lederberg:

The steady accumulation of reports about the resistance of enterobacteriaceae to antibiotics has prompted the New England Journal of Medicine to give editorial attention to the problem (reprint enclosed).

Since the current assessment of resistance, both in the lay and professional press, reflects some alarm, we feel that a rounded opinion-taking from investigators concerned would be in order.

For that purpose, we are asking you for your evaluation of the situation, and would appreciate receiving your responses to the following questions: What do you believe to be the true dimensions of the resistance transfer phenomenon? May it extend to other pathogens? What are its implications to the clinician?

We are also putting these questions to the investigators on the attached list.

Miss Jane Ross of our staff will call to discuss this with you. We appreciate your cooperation and look forward to receiving your contribution.

Sincerely yours,

David Fisher

David Fisher,
Editor

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Enc. (2)

1. Unpredictable. May become of crucial importance as I have believed from the first reports from Japan.
2. Undoubtedly will!
3. Each needless use of an antibiotic is borrowing from someone else's benefits. RTF only exacerbates existing problem of resistance mutation.

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